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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our hope for the years to come, we come to You with a tangled mass of motives, seeking, through prayer, to make sense of life.

Guide our lawmakers as they seek to unravel the good from the bad, the sweet from the bitter, and the harmony from the discord. Teach them how to seek and find You during this challenging season of our national life.

Lord, give them calm strength and patient wisdom to do what is best for our Nation and world. Vanquish the darkness through the power of Your celestial brightness. Turn Your face toward us, and show us Your glory.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### TRIBUTE TO RAJA CHARI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I speak about Iowans who are well noted for things wherever they live in Iowa, but I am particularly proud to speak about a person from Cedar Falls, IA, a town I know well because I have lived my entire 87 years on a farm 8 miles from Cedar Falls.

This week, NASA announced that Raja Chari from Cedar Falls, IA, has been selected for a team of astronauts that will go to the Moon as part of the Artemis mission.

The Artemis mission will land astronauts on the Moon in the year 2024, with the goal of establishing a long-term presence. Raja Chari will be a part of this effort that will ensure America's continued leadership and preeminence in space.

I congratulate Raja on his accomplishments and wish him and all the astronauts who are part of this mission great success.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate needs to pass a stopgap funding measure today to prevent a lapse while the bipartisan, bicameral efforts close in on a full-year funding bill, and we need to advance what will be the 60th annual Defense authorization bill.

This year's NDAA will cement the historic steps that Congress and the Trump administration have taken over the past 4 years to rebuild and reequip a 21st century fighting force. It directs investments in technologies to maintain our strategic edge. It makes critical supply chains more secure and the Pentagon more accountable. And in the face of threats ranging from adversaries to this pandemic, it expands efforts to keep our men and women in uniform safe.

I remain hopeful that essential progress on these items will continue. We ought to pass a full-year funding measure, and I hope our committees in the Senate and the House can complete their work and deliver legislation next week.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, that said, we know the American people's eyes are trained on the Capitol for another reason as well. Struggling families, exhausted health workers, and anxious small business owners are waiting—waiting—for the Senate to do what I have tried to accomplish over and over for months: Pass a significant, targeted COVID-relief bill built on all the areas where bipartisan consensus already exists.

We know what that common ground looks like: a new second round of the Paycheck Protection Program so hard-hit small businesses can keep paying their people, the necessary investments in distribution to get lifesaving vaccines out to our people, and an extension of some unemployment programs

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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